GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:900
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
DIRECT JOURNEY BETWEEN AGARTALA AND KOLKATA
Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the present double entry system of passports for the passengers travelling between Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh is causing longer time for completion of the journey;

(b) If so, whether the Government is contemplating any proposal for direct journey between Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh without any break in the journey and change of vehicles; and

(c) If so, the steps to be initiated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b)&(c): The Kolkata-Dhaka bus service has been operational since June 1999 while the Agartala-Dhaka bus service started in September 2003. Government of India is currently examining a proposal to start a direct bus service between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka. The matter has not yet been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh.